APR 0 2 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

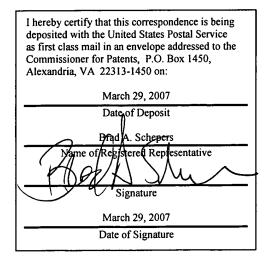
In re patent application of: Van Hoeck et al.)	Before the Examiner: David J. Isabella
Application Serial No. 10/775,546)	Group Art Unit 3738
Filed February 10, 2004)	Ref. No. MSDI-435/PC263.32
INTERVERTEBRAL SPACERS)	March 29, 2007

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION (WITH RCE)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed November 29, 2006, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. A fee in the amount of \$120.00 is remitted herewith for a one (1) month extension of time, thereby extending the time period to respond to the final Office Action to March 29, 2007. Additionally, remitted herewith is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the requisite fee in the amount of \$790.00. Please charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.



Response to final Office Action (w/ RCE)

Serial No. 10/775,546

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-48 and 58-69 were pending in the subject application for the final Office Action mailed on November 29, 2006. Claims 21-48 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species of the invention. Claims 1-20 and 58-69 have been rejected on various grounds. In view of the following amendments and remarks and the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.